

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JESSIE MEDLIN, PRESIDENT 2002 PRESIDING

August 26, 2002

A. CALL TO ORDER

The August 26TH, 2002, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Jessie Medlin, Board President.

Chief Deputy Charlie Brown of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----District 1
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----District 3
Supervisor John Caldwell---District 4 ---Absent
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5
W. E. Sluggo Davis-----Chancery Clerk
Chief Deputy Charlie Brown-----Sheriff's Dept.
David Armstrong-----County Administrator
Tony Nowak-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

Supervisor Tommy Lewis presented the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. OLD BUSINESS

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget FY03

County Administrator David Armstrong told the Board of Supervisors the County has 391 full time employees and 112 part time employees.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said the Board has previously gone over the Sheriff's budget, the Road budget, and the Solid Waste budget at the last meeting.

Supervisor Gene Thach said the County has been receiving some money from the City of Southaven for the custody of prisoners. Supervisor Thach said the law allows \$10.00 per suit to be added and collected. Comptroller Joyce Riales said the County has received \$10,749 this budget year. Supervisor Thach said all the cities could add that fee according to state law. The Supervisors asked the Comptroller what happens to that money. Ms. Riales said that money goes back into the General Fund.

Library Budget – Mr. Armstrong advised the Board of Supervisors that the First Regional Library Director, Jim Anderson is here to discuss the recommended budget for the library.

Mr. Anderson presented facts and comparison about the library as documented in Exhibit E.1.

ITEM E.1, CONTINUED,

Mr. Anderson said the library is requesting \$980,000 for their budget this year. He said the library obtained \$1.4 million in grant money and in September they will come to the Board for approval to bid the Olive Branch expansion. Mr. Armstrong said the Southaven library and the parking expansion of the Olive Branch library are not included in this budget, as they should not be needed this budget year. Supervisor Medlin asked if there would be room at the current facility for additional parking needs in Olive Branch? Mr. Anderson said the architect plans to utilize the current County property at that library. Hopefully we can add additional parking in the existing loop.

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis asked how much money the library has in the bank to get revenue of \$40,000 in interest. Mr. Anderson said they have \$1,000,000 in the operating budget but some of those funds are allocated.

Mr. Armstrong pointed out that there is \$350,000 in the budget for furniture for both the Hernando and the Olive Branch libraries.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis observed the library is currently at \$850,000 and asked how the current request came to \$980,000. Mr. Anderson said the library currently has 31 full time employees in DeSoto County. We want to increase that by 4 1/4 new positions. Mr. Anderson said they are looking at giving pay increases to the current staff at 5%. He explained that the library is losing much of its staff to higher paying jobs. Mr. Anderson said \$100,000 will go toward the salary and fringe benefits for 4 1/4 new employees, and \$40,000 will go toward the 5% salary increases for current employees.

Mr. Armstrong asked if the library has a cash reserve fund. Mr. Anderson said they have probably \$700,000. Mr. Armstrong asked if any of that money could be used in this budget. Mr. Anderson answered that the library cannot use any regional money for county expenses. Mr. Armstrong asked if the library contingency funds increased during the current year. Mr. Anderson said the contingency funds are down slightly.

Mr. Armstrong asked if the County is making up any money for any of the cities. Mr. Anderson said no, and explained he does not have the commitments from the cities yet. Mr. Anderson said the library has asked the cities for increases as follows:

Hernando	13%	Horn Lake	15.4%
Olive Branch	21%	Southaven	10.8%

Mr. Anderson said he appreciates what the County does for the library.

EMS Budget - Bobby Storey, Director of Fire and EMS appeared before the Board of Supervisors to discuss the budget of EMS. Mr. Storey requested the utility budget not be decreased as some of the Fire Departments make up shortfalls in that fund already. The Board of Supervisors agreed to return \$1,500 to Fund 510 in the EMS budget.

Mr. Storey said EMS just recently received \$4,000 in grant money from Delta Trauma that was to be used for training, but EMS has not had an opportunity to use the money yet. Mr. Storey asked that the grant money be added back to the 2003 budget. The Board agreed.

Millage - County Administrator David Armstrong said the total proposed County millage is 87.78 mills. Mr. Armstrong pointed out the only difference in County millage is the 2 mills the School Board increased their millage.

Mr. Armstrong said the General County millage is proposed to go from 21.71 mills to 22.34 mills. Mr. Armstrong said this Board of Supervisors has not raised County taxes since 1993. Even still, the County has added an average of 9.71% to each budget. Mr. Armstrong said the County has been fortunate to fund their budgets on growth, but it is getting more difficult to fund budgets in this manner.

Tax Collector - Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked how much the County lost in revenues from

ITEM E.1, CONTINUED,

the cap the cities have on their tax collections. Mr. Armstrong said he does not have that figure available at this time.

Revenue - Mr. Armstrong explained the revenue portion of the proposed budget.

Tax Assessor - The Tax Assessor joined the meeting at the Board's request to discuss the additional salaries that were added to the Tax Assessor's budget in spite of the fact there will be no additional employees in that department during the coming year. DeSoto County Tax Assessor Parker Pickle said some of his employees have been being paid from reassessment funds and this year they will move back to the salary line item as their work on the reassessment comes to a close.

Regional Utility Authority - Mr. Armstrong said a new project has been added to General County Fund 108, but is actually to fund a marketing campaign to educate the County taxpayers on the efforts of the Regional Utility Authority to develop the countywide sewer system. Mr. Armstrong said the RUA has been cautioned by other sewer systems of the need to lead such a campaign. After discussion, the Board of Supervisors agreed to move this line item to the Regional Utility Authority budget.

GIS - At the Board's request, Director of GIS Sam Russell joined the meeting. Mr. Russell explained he did not have a problem that money for mapping had been deleted from his budget request. Mr. Russell said he originally budgeted the money to purchase maps or other GIS information from other entities, as such information was valuable to the GIS department. However, Mr. Russell said, at this time, he does not have any specific prospects to purchase. Mr. Russell said he is sure when that time comes he can convince the Board of their value to the GIS department and will ask for a budget amendment based on a specific project. The Board of Supervisors agreed.

County Engineer - Mr. Armstrong said the County Engineer as requested an assistant in that department at a salary of \$40,000. Mr. Armstrong said he had cut the budget to \$35,000, but said Mr. Swims doubts he can hire someone for that amount that is qualified for the job.

Supervisor Thach said he would not be in favor of the new position unless he is taking some of the work from the Consulting Engineer. Supervisor Medlin said, even if the new person did not take any work from the Consulting Engineer, that he could probably stay busy. After discussing the potential of the new position, the Board agreed to leave the position at the current level of funding proposed in the budget.

County Court Administrator - Mr. Armstrong notified the Board that Judge Barbee signed an order to increase his Court Administrator's salary to \$38,498. The Board discussed the inequity of that increase compared to other employees.

Public Defenders - Mr. Armstrong said there are currently four public defenders in Circuit Court and one in Youth Court and one in Justice Court. Judge Barbee and Judge Ready have both requested an \$11,500 raise for the Circuit Court Public Defenders and a \$10,000 raise for the Youth Court and Justice Court Public Defenders. The Board discussed the huge distortion between these increases as compared to increases in other departments. The Board instructed the County Administrator to find out what authority the judges have over the salaries of these positions as well as the court administrators and the victim's witness coordinators.

Coroner - Mr. Armstrong said the Assistant Deputy Coroner legally could receive a salary increase of \$10,000, but he did not include that amount in the proposed budget. The Board of Supervisors agreed that due to the amount of work, the type of work and the hours required, the \$10,000 increase was warranted and instructed the County Administrator to add \$10,000 to this budget.

City of Hernando Request to Widen West Street & Remove Curb & Gutter

This item was held over until August 28th, 2002.

ITEM E, CONTINUED,

2. Approval to Return Weapons – Metro Narcotics

This item was held over until August 28th, 2002.

3. Report From Committee to Inspect New DHS Building

This item was held over until August 28th, 2002.

4. Approval of Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement – Sheriff’s Department

This item was held over until August 28th, 2002.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session portions of these minutes are recorded under the portion of the minutes called "Executive Session".

G. OTHER ISSUES

1. Chancery Clerk’s Allowance

Chancery Court Clerk W. E. Davis presented a Court approved order of Allowances to the Board of Supervisors for the August 2002 term in the amount of \$870.00. Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve this payment, pursuant to Section 25-7-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin	YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach	YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton	ABSENT
Supervisor John Caldwell	ABSENT
Supervisor Tommy Lewis	YES

****See Exhibit G.6****

2. Appointment - Regional Library Board

First Regional Library Director Jim Anderson reminded the Board of Supervisors the appointment of Ms. Lucy Brigeforth will expire at the end of September. This will be the end of Ms. Brigeforth=s second term, which is all any appointee is allowed to serve. Mr. Anderson said Ms. Bridgforth has been an outstanding appointee.

3. Personnel - EMS Billing Clerk

Bobby Storey, Director of Fire/EMS reminded the Board of Supervisors about the resignation of Mitzi Fuller. Mr. Storey said Ms. Fuller has agreed to stay to train her replacement. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve Mitzi Fuller to remain in County employment in order to train her replacement. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----	YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----	YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----	YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----	ABSENT
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----	YES

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to recess until August 28TH, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

CONTINUED,

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----ABSENT
Supervisor John Caldwell-----ABSENT
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

THIS the 26TH. day of August, 2002, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

Jessie L. Medlin, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors